In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-25.

Please add the following claims:

26.   An isolated DNA compound that encodes *Propionibacterium shermanii* methylmalonyl CoA epimerase.

27.   The DNA compound of Claim 26, wherein said epimerase comprises amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 2.

28.   The DNA compound of Claim 26, wherein said DNA compound comprises DNA sequence SEQ ID NO: 1.

29.   A recombinant vector comprising the DNA compound of Claim 26 operably linked to a promoter.

30.   A host cell transformed or transfected with the recombinant vector of Claim 29.

31.   The host cell of Claim 30, wherein said host cell is a prokaryote.

32.   The host cell of Claim 31, wherein said host cell is an actinomycete.

33.   The host cell of Claim 31, wherein said host cell is *E. coli*.

34.   The host cell of Claim 30, wherein, said host cell is a eukaryote.

35.   The host cell of Claim 34, wherein said host cell is yeast.

36.   The host cell of claim 34, wherein said host cell is a plant cell.

37.   A method for producing *Propionibacterium shermanii* methylmalonyl CoA epimerase, said method comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 30 under conditions such that said epimerase is expressed.

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38.   The method of Claim 37, wherein said DNA compound comprises DNA sequence SEQ ID NO:1.

39.   The method of Claim 37, wherein said DNA compound encodes amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2.

40.   The method of Claim 37, wherein said host cell is *E. coli*

41.   The method of Claim 37, wherein said host cell is yeast.

42.   The method of Claim 37, wherein said host cell is a plant.

43.   A method for converting (R)-methylmalonyl CoA to (S)-methylmalonyl CoA in a host cell, the method comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 22 under conditions such that said epimerase is expressed, and (R)-methylmalonyl CoA is converted into (S)-methylmalonyl CoA.

44.   The method of Claim 43, wherein the DNA compound comprises DNA sequence SEQ ID NO:1.

45.   The method of claim 43, whereby the DNA compound encodes amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2.